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VOLUME 48, NO. 16

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

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TWICE-A-MONTH SEPTEMBER 15, 1923

MONTHLY IN JULY AND AUGUST

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R·R·BOWKER CO·NEW YORK
Published—Semi-monthly, Sept. to June inclusive: Monthly in July and August—at 62 West 45th Street, New York.
Entered as 2nd class matter June 18, 1879, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under act of March 3, 1879.
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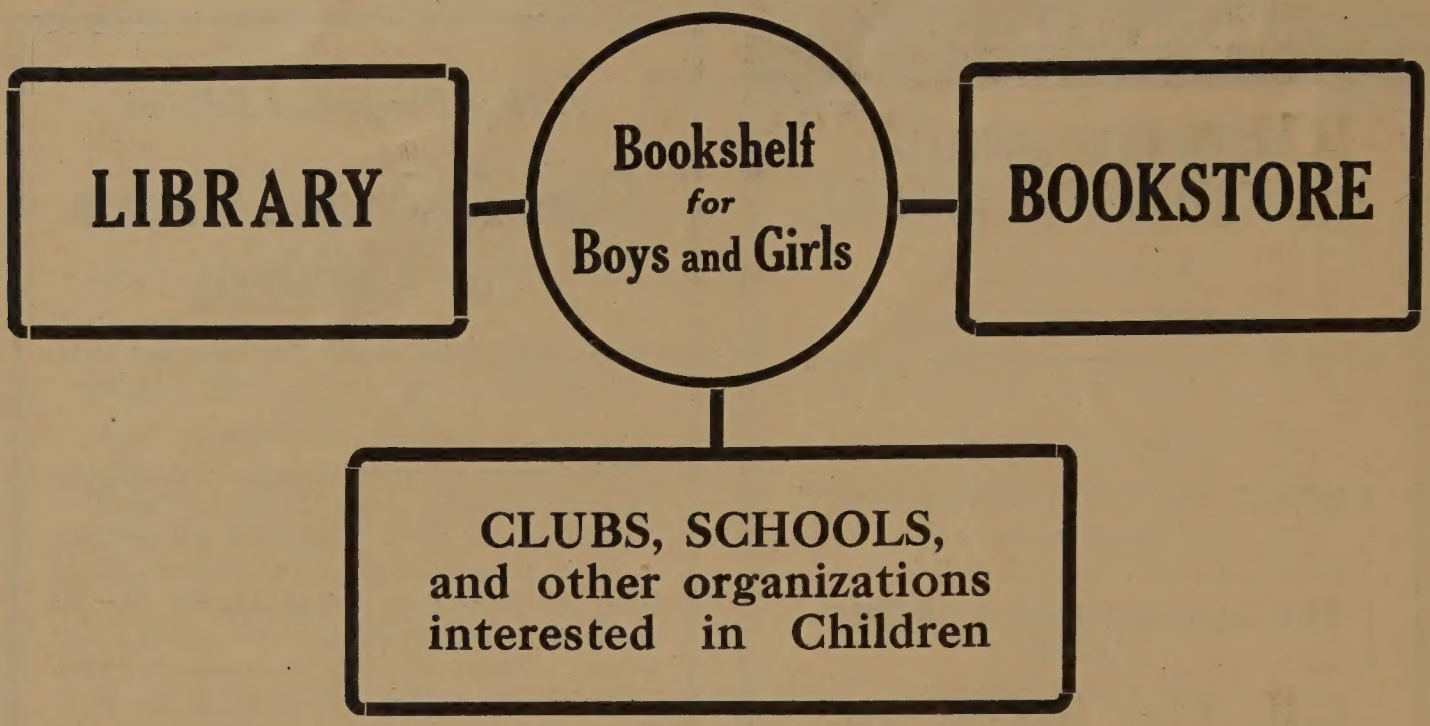

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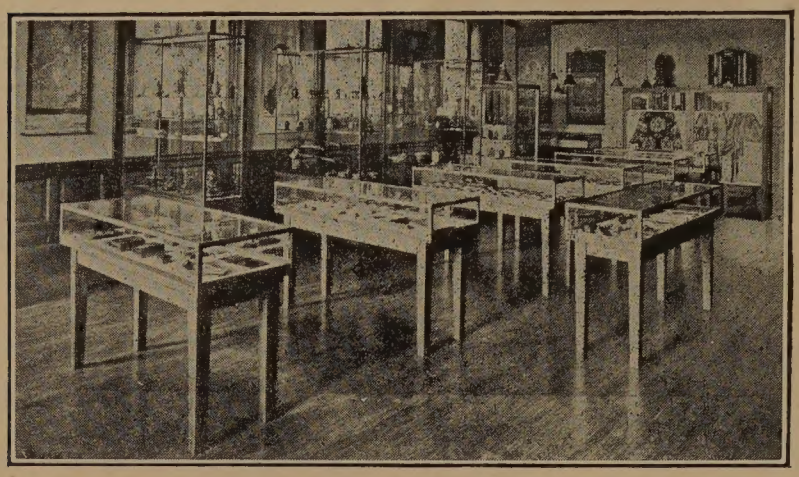

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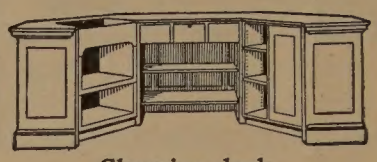

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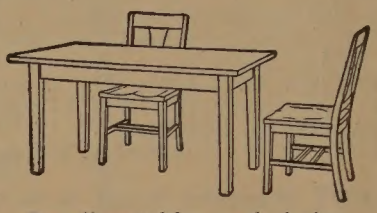

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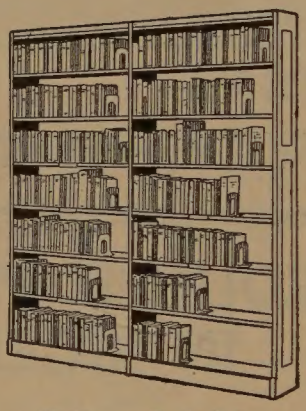

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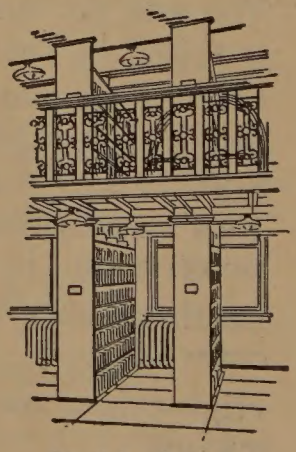

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

TWICE-A-MONTH SEPTEMBER 15, 1923

Public Library Reports and the Law—I

BY LUCIUS H. CANNON
Librarian of the Municipal Reference Branch of the St. Louis Public Library

THE provincial point of view in civic matters is not confined to the inhabitants of the smaller communities. Several of the cities to be found in a list of the twenty largest cities of the United States have more marked provincial sentiments, as shown in their official acts and in their official omissions—in the censoriousness of their representative organizations and their newspapers on the expenditures of city councils and city executives, than some other cities whose population is below one hundred thousand.

Every citizen endorses wise caution in municipal expenditures as a civic duty. It is to be commended rather than criticised or condemned. However there is a happy mean where neither niggardliness nor extravagance is manifest. The municipality need present neither the cringing attitude of miserable poverty, nor the extravagance of inordinate income.

These generalizations have specific reference to the official reports of cities; to the manner in which they are compiled, written and printed; to the frank neglect and indifference of officials in following out the directions of the laws governing the writing of the reports; to an obvious belief, or contumacy on the part of certain officials of the city that "economy" is higher than law.

Dr. W. B. Munro of Harvard University complains that city reports are not sufficiently explicit; that he has looked thru folios of reports of water departments to find the source of the water and failed; and vainly, for the cost of the water supply.*

The inadequacy of official reports does not apply alone to those of the municipalities. Complaint may, with equal justice and more reason be raised against state and governmental reports. Their voluminousness, their duplications, their irrelevancy, their paucity of vital interest; in some cases, even their lack of accuracy, their failure in respect to style, and not rarely, defiance of grammatical rules—these complaints seem to justify protest. Many of the governmental reports are written by those who have the letters of many degrees after their names; and of some the authors are in great universities. Which forces the gratuitous comment: What availeth great learning if it may not be intelligibly imparted; or if the "facts" are not accurately and intelligently presented.

II.

There is a small city in West Virginia, called Clarksburg, whose population the United States Census for 1920 gave as 27,869. It is under the city manager form of government, and the city manager is Harrison Gray Otis. Mr. Otis is cosmopolitan in spirit as well as in practice, and has some very unique ideas on city reports, which he very plausibly presents. Some of his points have wide application, and for that reason they are quoted here. Like all cosmopolites, Mr. Otis is witty. The humorous sallies (which hypnotists, conscious or unconscious, who are after the pocket-book always eliminate from their discourses because of the seriousness of

*Neither this charge nor the one following about the street departments applies to the City of St. Louis. For over ten years the water department reports have contained each year a standard summary of all this information, supplementing and included in the general report. This is in accordance with the form recommended by the New England Water Works Association. Mention may also be made of the enduring value of the reports of the Board of Education. The utilization of the "trivial" facts, such as the name of books used during the school year, the methods of teaching and much other information, contained in these reports, are of immense interest even after a period of sixty years. The reports of the Streets and Sewers, Public Service, Public Utilities departments, and the Comptroller's report among many more that could, with equal justice be named, are not only readable and interesting, but are well printed and attractively bound. Some governors have been thought available for the presidency of the United States because they "fought" for, advocated and inaugurated a budgetary system for state expenditures. St. Louis has had a budget for forty years.

their objective) in his preachment show, altho he was addressing fellow city-managers, that he stands on equal footing with the mutable many, and that he has no fear of endangering his dignity by indulging in a keen, refined sense of humor.

The preparation of an annual report gives to the city manager, Mr. Otis says, his one big opportunity to play host to his taxpayers. The fact that the charter usually requires such a report and that the city foots the bill, simply increases the obligation resting upon the manager. The report should be a real feast—a Thanksgiving dinner, if you will—so full of fresh, wholesome ideas and food for thought that strangers will devour it from cover to cover.

. . . A real feast must be carefully planned long in advance. So, too, the annual report. Each week should yield some definite contribution of increased or added service. The field of community welfare should be cultivated to produce a rotation of crops. These crops may be gathered by securing monthly reports from department heads. To each report should be added suggestions whereby the department's efficiency may be increased. Thus the next crop is planted.

A camera is a handy harvesting tool . . . . As the end of the year draws near, assemble the stores of facts and select the finest specimens of accomplishment. Sort well and plan the meal.

You must remember, he warns, that your department-heads may not have been chosen for their literary ability. So it might not be a bad plan to call in a newspaper writer to edit the material.

Having picked out the best stories, boil them down, and after carefully removing the "I's," season with comparison. Unrelated facts are often insipid and hard to digest. These comparisons may be in figures, lines, circles, sketches or photographs. Apply them with judgment and remove any trace of bitterness. Use only the quantity needed to bring out the true value of the accomplishment. Stir in a bit of human interest to keep the pot from boiling dry.

Now prepare the financial statements. If these come to you already prepared from the auditor's delicatessen shop, be sure to inspect them carefully. Finances are a necessary but dangerous part of a report and of little value without proper comparisons. Most tables of statistics will stand condensing. Long inventories of bolts and nuts contain little nourishment.

In assembling the course three things must be borne in mind: (1) It is a report to the people and worthless unless read, hence it must be readable. (2) It is for the people, hence copies must be delivered to all taxpayers, or at least to all the holders of realty. (3) It is to be paid for by the people, hence don't be extravagant by insisting upon embossed covers and thick volumes. Now set your table. Reports must be attractively set up. Your public is not so hungry for municipal information that it will dig ravenously into cold hash served in uninviting packages over the clerk's counter.

Select good paper, good type, good illustrations. Arrange the courses in logical sequence. You are selling good government. Your report should qualify as a "best seller" except that it must be quite free from fiction.

Assuming that the stories of achievement are ready to be taken up, prepare them for the report by cutting into short paragraphs set off by spicy sub-heads in boldfaced type. Each heading should state an interesting fact and not simply label a part of an exhibit. From these headings select the most toothsome bits as the ingredients for an "appetizer." This may appear as a part of the manager's letter of transmittal or serve as a "foreword" to the report. If properly prepared and served, the report will find a most enthusiastic welcome, and Mr. Taxpayer will smack his lips and pass up his plate for more good government. Perhaps he will even pay his tax bill with pleasure. For dessert set forth plans for proposed service and improvements for the coming year, not in full detail but in light outline, so as to leave your guests in a mood of good fellowship and anticipation. Don't be alarmed by the occasional groan of the chronic curbstone dyspeptic. It is reward enough to see the citizens as a whole smoking the pipe of political peace and planning for another year of united community service.

III

The reports of public libraries, with few exceptions, lack distinction. With all of the defects that they are alleged to contain the reports of the departments of many municipalities are far superior from every point of view. In the compilation of library reports there often appears to be an apathy that cannot escape the critical reader—a perfunctoriness in their making—a cheapness in their dress, that places many of them below mediocrity. A large number of the reports omit the local features, the "human element," the "anything" of "general interest," so that by changing a few names, the addition or the elision of two, or three, or more figures in the statistical tables, one report might answer for all of the libraries of the country. This is said with certain mental reservations. Statistics, a little space for text, an illustration or two and the cover—these go to make up the report of the "literary" department of the city! There is a suppressed wail from some librarians, that "there is nothing to write about." The fact is, so much is omitted that the laws outline that library reports shall contain, that it would appear to be rather a matter of elimination than inclusion.

Library reports may be made enduring literature, or they may be compilations of statistical matter as valueless in a few months as a railway-time table five years old.

William Dean Howells walked into a Boston police court many years ago. It may have been a definite plan of his, or only a vagrant fancy.

The walls of the court rooms might, if they could, repeat the wails of neglected women, the peevish cries of uncared-for children, the snivellings of intoxicated men and women; the stories of hopeless sorrow, of unrestrained passions, of unrelieved sordidness. These subjects are without the purview of Howells, but he finally gave the result of his visit in a sketch entitled, "Police Report."

We see police reports daily in the papers, but they are never pointed out as exhibits of litera-

ture. The "Police Report" of Howells was originally published in the *Atlantic Monthly*, and later in one of his books. It is, and has been, something more than ephemeral literature. It is enduring. It has been mentioned time and again, in schools of journalism, as an example of what may be accomplished with the most unpromising material.

Possibly we are too near the period of issue of library reports to gauge their value; or their appraisement may be influenced by prejudices we would be slow to acknowledge.

We may only imagine the intense, widespread excitement that would follow the discovery, by Egyptian archaeologists, of a report of Phalereus, librarian of the library of the Temple of Serapis, with its one hundred thousand volumes! Would any statement of mere statistics be sufficient to appease our eager wonder and curiosity? Would details, however, trifling and minute be too prolix for our straining eyes?

If thru some alchemy, now unknown, the sublimated qualities of library reports should permeate the atmosphere, a sensitive instrument might be invented to catch and register these qualities, something after the manner in which the thermometer indicates the changes in temperature. We could at once know, without prejudice, the grades of the reports, by observing the movement of the imprisoned mercury. The high grades, the low and the medium would be recorded on the disk, or in the glass tube, as impersonally as the distribution of the falling rain. The inclusions, the omissions would go to make up the "qualities." Departure from conventional report-writing might be shown by an eccentric movement of the mercury.

It is regrettable to consider that the wholly practical use of this instrument might be impaired by the legislative enactments to be found in many states! For reports may not always take on the qualities of those who make them. The report of a public library is not the result of the capriciousness of the librarian, if he conscientiously follows the law, nor of the eccentricities of the library board of directors.

IV.

In a law covering the requirements of the annual report of a railroad there are one hundred and five provisions to be considered. Among some of the questions that are required to be answered are the following: Average rate of speed adopted by ordinary passenger trains including stops. Average rate of speed adopted by ordinary passenger trains when in motion. Amount of freight, specifying the quantity in tons, of the products of the forests, of animals, of vegetable food, other agricultural products, manufactures, merchandise, and other articles. Length of iron used in renewals, in feet, with weight and cost, repairs of buildings, repairs of fences and gates, repairs of engines and tenders; depreciation of engines and tenders; office expenses and stationery, wood and water station attendance. Oil and waste for engine and tenders; oil and waste for freight cars; oil and waste for baggage and passenger cars. Damages to property including damages by fire, cattle killed on road, etc., etc.

There are also laws specifically or impliedly outlining the contents of the reports of public libraries. These laws are found in the statutes of many states.

Some of the state laws prescribing the contents of library reports are clear and unequivocal. There is no opportunity for argument because of any ambiguity.

V.

Alabama*	Connecticut	Indiana
Boston	Florida	Iowa
Colorado	Illinois	

Obedience to law is imperative. A public official need not be a lawyer, but a knowledge of the law creating his office and governing its administration is necessary in order that he may see to the law's enforcement, and follow its mandates under his official oath.

Of the list of states given above whose laws on library reports follow, the laws of Colorado, Connecticut and Florida prescribe that besides statistics the report shall contain matter "of general interest."

The law of Illinois says, "and any other statistics, information and suggestions that may be of interest." In Indiana the city public library "board shall make . . . a detailed report of its doings in library matters including a complete account of its receipts and expenditures." The report of the Iowa town, or city public library board shall include besides statistics, "such further information as it may deem important."

The frequency and time of the reports and the officers, official body, or department to whom the report shall be made vary.

In Alabama the law for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries by counties, prescribes that these libraries shall make "such regular and special reports to the Department [of Archives and History] as may be required." The statutes of Massachusetts relating to Boston declare that the board of trustees of the public library must make a semi-annual report, "and whenever required by the mayor, or city council

* For greater facility of reference the arrangement of the states and cities is alphabetical.

make and present in writing a particular report. . . ." In the cities of Colorado over 100,000 inhabitants, the boards of directors of public libraries "shall annually before the third Monday in March, make a report to the city council. . . ." The Connecticut law provides for the establishment of a Public Library Committee which may establish free public libraries. These libraries and any free public library receiving state aid, "shall annually make a report to the Connecticut Public Library Committee."

When a city council (Connecticut) establishes a public library, the board of directors "shall make on or before the second Monday of June, an annual report to the city council for the year ending the first of June." In Florida "the library board shall on or before the second Monday in June in each year make a report to the city or town council. . . ." The Illinois law requires that "within fifteen days after the expiration of each fiscal year of the city, incorporated town, township or village, the [public library] board of directors shall make a report . . . to the city council, board of town auditors or board of trustees, as the case may be." "At least once each year," says the Indiana law, "such [city public library] board shall make to the common council of the city a detailed report. . . ." The law of Iowa directs that "the [town or city public library] board of trustees shall each year make to the council a report for the year ending December thirty-first. . . ."

ALABAMA

Section 799. . . . [The director of the department of archives and history] shall make an annual report to the board of trustees to be by them transmitted to the governor, to be accompanied by such historical papers and documents as may be deemed of importance by him, and the director shall contract for the printing and binding of said report . . . [He shall prepare for the press the reports of the Alabama Historical Commission . . . .].—Alabama: Code, 1907, p. 466.

[A law for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries by counties.] . . . It shall be the duty of the Department of Archives and History, now charged with the library extension activities of the State, to encourage the establishment of such libraries . . . and such county libraries shall, on request, make such regular and special reports to the Department as may be required.—Alabama: General Acts, 1919, p. 1125.

BOSTON, MASS.

Section 10. Said board [of trustes of the public library] shall, semi-annually, and whenever required by the mayor or city council, make and present in writing a particular report and a statement of all their acts and proceedings. [Statutes relating to the City of Boston, 1908, p. 59.]

Chapter 21, Section 2. The board shall, in its annual report, include a statement of the condition of the library, the number of books that have been added thereto during the year, the report of the committee appointed to examine the library, and the total amount of money received from fines and sales. —Boston Revised Ordinances, 1914, p. 34.

COLORADO

Section 4533. The board of directors [of public libraries in cities of over 100,000] shall annually before the third Monday in March, make a report to the city council of the condition of their trust on the first day of March, which report shall show for the preceding twelve months the moneys received, its sources, disposition and amount on hand; number of books received, lost, condemned, and remaining on hand; number of persons using the reading room and the number of periodicals regularly filed for their use, number of persons taking books for home reading on cards, and the number of books loaned; name of persons donating cash, books or other property, and a description thereof; together with such other statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest.—Colorado: Mills' Annotated Statutes, 1912, v. 2, p. 1954.

CONNECTICUT

Section 1084. The general assembly shall biennially appoint two persons, who, with the governor, shall constitute the state library committee. Said committee shall have charge of the state library and supreme court building and the grounds connected therewith, and shall appoint a state librarian, who shall have charge, under them, of said building and the grounds connected therewith, report biennially to the general assembly, and perform such other duties as may be required by law.

Section 1087. The state librarian shall, with the approval of the state library committee, appoint an assistant to such librarian, which assistant shall be an examiner of public records. . . . Said assistant, as such examiner of public records, shall cause such action to be taken by the persons having the care and custody of public records as may be necessary to put said records in the custody and condition required by the laws . . . and shall submit a biennial report to the state librarian.

Section 1106. The State Board of Education shall annually appoint five persons who shall be known as the Connecticut Public Library Committee. No member of said committee shall receive any compensation for his services as such member, but the members of said committee shall be paid their necessary expenses. . . . [This Committee shall not expend to exceed four thousand dollars. It shall make a semi-annual report of all money expended to the Comptroller.]

Section 1107. The Connecticut Public Library Committee shall give to communities advice and assistance in the organization, establishment and administration of free public libraries, and shall extend to all free public libraries aid in selecting and cataloguing books and in library management. . . .

Section 1108. The Connecticut Public Library Committee . . . shall annually report its doings to the governor.

Section 1112. The libraries established under the provisions of this chapter, and any free public library receiving a state appropriation, shall annually make a report to the Connecticut Public Library Committee.

Section 1114. The city council of any city may establish and maintain a public library and reading room, together with such kindred apartments and facilities as said council shall approve; . . .

Section 1115. [When the city council establish and maintain a public library and reading room under authority of Section 1114, the mayor shall appoint a board of nine directors.]

Section 1119. Said board of directors shall make on or before the second Monday of June, an annual report to the city council for the year ending the first of June, stating the various sums of money received from the library fund and other sources, and how and for what such moneys have been expended; the number of books and periodicals on hand; the number added

by purchase, gift or otherwise, during the year: the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of books loaned out, and the general character of such books; with such other statistics, information and suggestions, as they may deem of general interest. All such portions of said report as relate to the receipt and expenditure of money, as well as the number of books on hand, books lost or missing and books purchased shall be verified by affidavit.—Connecticut: General Statutes, 1918, v. 1, pp. 371, 376, 377, 378, 379.

FLORIDA

Section 1881. The library board shall, on or before the second Monday in June in each year make a report to the city or town council of the condition of their trust; on the first day of June in such year, showing all moneys received and expended; the number of books and periodicals on hand; newspapers and current literature subscribed for or donated to the reading room department; the number of books and periodicals ordered by purchase, gift or obtained during the year, and the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of and character of books loaned or issued, with such statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest, or as the city or town council may require, which report shall be verified by affidavit of the proper officers of said board.—Florida: Revised General Statutes, 1920, v. 1, p. 1029.

THE MAIN FACADE OF THE WILMINGTON INSTITUTE FREE LIBRARY. E. L. TILTON AND A. M. GITHENS ARCHITECTS

Wilmington's New Library Building

THE new library building in Wilmington is on Tenth Street and extends from Market to King Streets, facing Rodney Square, a beautiful park in the heart of the business district. On the west side of Rodney Square is the large Du Pont Building. On the east side is the combined City and County Building of classic design. The library is two stories high on Market Street and three stories on King Street, and is one hundred and eighty-five feet long by eighty feet wide. Messrs. E. L. Tilton and A. M. Githens, of New York, were the architects of the Library and the duPont Engineering Company, of Wilmington, the general contractors.

The building is in the Roman Classic style and is built of gray-white limestone. The double entrance doors are heavy, paneled black walnut, each valve eighteen feet high by four feet wide, visible only when the library is closed. Visitors pass thru swinging glass doors just inside the large front doors and find themselves in a beautiful hall in Pompeiian decoration, design and color being copied directly from the Bosco Reale rooms in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. Broad stairways lead from each end of this hall to the second floor.

The entrance hall is separated from the library proper by a glass screen about ten feet high, just inside of which will be found the main delivery desk in the center of a large space seventy feet long by thirty-five feet wide, open to the roof and lighted by a large skylight. The limits of this central Atrium are defined by polished black columns. A corridor extends around the Atrium on the second floor, and the roof is supported by buff columns. The frieze above the lower columns is an ivory-toned cast of the Panthenaic procession from the Parthenon. All the color decoration of the building has been concentrated in the hallway and in the central Atrium.

The main floor is without corridors and with few partitions, one room giving direct access to another and all supervised in a general way from the delivery desk at the entrance. There is an unusually large proportion of useful floor space, and a sense of openness and soft light. Back of the delivery desk are free-standing wooden cases with wooden cases around the walls, shelving fiction and other much-used books.

On the east end of this floor is the main reading and reference room, seventy-five feet long

THE DELIVERY DESK FROM REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

THE ENTRANCE HALL

by forty-five feet wide, one-half of which is used for readers and one-half for the shelving of about fifty thousand volumes open to the public. Above the shelving is a mezzanine floor open to readers upon request.

On the west end is the magazine reading room about forty-five feet square, on each side of which are administrative offices.

On the east end of the building underneath the main reading and reference room is the children's room, with a separate entrance from King Street. The children's room is exceedingly attractive, enhanced by the thirteen large paintings above the low bookcases, the originals of N. C. Wyeth's illustrations for "Robinson Crusoe." There is an entrance from this room directly to the stacks and another to the stairway which leads to the main floor.

Underneath the main floor are two tiers of Snead stacks providing shelving for three hundred thousand volumes.

With the exception of three small rooms given over to members of the staff, the second floor is not at present used for library purposes. On the west end of the building is a small lecture hall; on the east end a large room, with overhead lighting which will be leased to the Wilmington Society of Fine Arts for the permanent exhibit of the collection of Howard Pyle Pictures.

Both of these rooms can be taken over for library purposes whenever such a course is necessary. There is also an unassigned room on this floor.

The building is equipped with an electric elevator, electric booklift for the reference department, and other mechanical equipment usual in a modern building.

ARTHUR L. BAILEY, *Librarian.*

Books for European Libraries

A MOST important result . . . has been to render it almost impossible to keep up the flow of learned periodicals and journals from France, England and America into the libraries [of Central European universities] and to obtain the equipment necessary for the conduct of laboratories. Professors in the greatest of these institutions continually complain that they are month by month falling behind in a conspectus of world events in research and scholarship. . . And the present position of monetary exchange makes it impossible either to fill the gaps in their libraries caused by the dead years of the War or to establish unbroken connections with post-war publication. . . . No task the learned societies and educational associations of England and America could undertake could compare in social value with the effort to fill out the broken files in the libraries of Central Europe and to supply the materials of experiment to their laboratories.—Thomas H. Dickinson, in "The New Old-World." Dutton, 1923. p. 105.

The Public Library and Cultural Ideals*

By GEORGE H. TRIPP
Librarian of the New Bedford (Mass.) Free Public Library

TO an inquiry why Dean Inge, the Dean of St. Paul's, should be called the "gloomy Dean," came the response, "'E's not gloomy, but what we might call 'a sad hoptimist.'"

It is a sad hoptimist that surveys the present condition of life and letters. Personally I confess to an uncurable optimism, even willing to imitate the conventional attitude of the ostrich, but on taking my head out of the sand, and rubbing my eyes, I see

Futuristic and Bolshevistic art.

I hear the blatant saxaphone stridently jazzing to the confusion of "Music, heavenly maid."

I see dancing degenerated from the graceful dances of the past into a riot of toddling, bunny-hugging, and the shimmy.

The game of bridge, a game interesting and intellectual, yet pursued by some of its devotees to the neglect of home, children, and religion, become truly a "pons asinorum."

While architecture has made great advances in the last few years, it is worthy of note that two great buildings, one a world wonder for its imposing height, and its filmy grace of ornament, is an apotheosis of cheap goods, and the other overtopping all others in the city of Chicago was built by chewing gum.

What of the girls? Instead of the "maiden standing with reluctant feet, where the brook and river meet," the flapper calls, "Come on in, the water's fine!"

What of our government? Paternalism at the helm, liberty endangered. Constraint instead of self-restraint. The theme—Be good, because the law demands it.

Do we find much encouragement in the daily press? Humor—instead of beauty of line and good-natured wit, vulgarism prevails, and unworthy themes are emphasized. Mutt and Jeff and Petey Dink have almost as many admirers as Babe Ruth.

In the book world, tho notable work has been brought out in biography, history, essays, social science, and of course in the applied arts, in fiction there is little to give comfort to the lovers of pure literature. Risqué books are poured forth in a constant stream, which pollutes the waters of life as much as any factory the clearness of a mountain brook. In this connection read Edwin Markham in *Current History* for August.

How about poetry? On the whole good, but lovers of Tennyson, Browning, Longfellow are howled down as Victorian, a word which has the same effect on an ultra modernist, as bourgeois to a bolshevist. Amy has pushed James Russell off his pedestal.

The trouble with those of so-called artistic temperament, whether painters or critics, is their one-sidedness. In art no painting is worth considering unless it is a portrait, which does not too faithfully copy the original features of the sitter, or a misty landscape, into which you have to put your own imagination. In literature, nothing is worth while, unless illicit sex problems are emphasized. Book criticisms are rarely dependable. There seems to be a conspiracy of adulation, while the publishers are most unblushing in their effrontery. Listen to this,

"Mr. D———, however, is the only American novelist who rises to heights of cosmic sublimity. He is an eminent spirit brooding over a world which, in spite of many condemnations, he deeply and soberly loves." In behalf of the world, Mr. D———, we thank you, and now feel that there is still hope for us.

But in spite of all, and notwithstanding Mr. D———, we will not brood, but still remain optimists, tho somewhat saddened on seeing materialism rampant, irreverence everywhere, veneration unknown, and consistent disrespect of laws prevalent.

What Is the Ideal Culture?

Cultural conceptions have greatly varied in different times and places. In ancient Persia the well-rounded youth was trained to ride well, to shoot straight, and to tell the truth. In China, a profound study of Confucius with long finger-nails denoting freedom from manual toil. The education of the man of culture of the Middle Ages, demanded that he should ride well, dance gracefully, and fence with skill. The culture of Greece and the refined civilization of the Middle Ages were limited to a few, and the opportunities for culture have been only open to the many within comparatively modern times. Meanwhile the whole conception of culture has completely changed.

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* Paper read at the meeting of the librarians of large libraries at Silver Bay, N. Y., Tuesday, September 4, 1923.

Matthew Arnold, one of the first apostles of modern culture proclaims as his idea of Culture, "a pursuit of our total perfection by means of getting to know, on all matters which most concern us, the best which has been thought and said in the world."

Again, "Culture is a study of perfection—to make reason and the will of God prevail." Increased sweetness, increased light, increased life, increased sympathy. Culture is obtained as a result of reading, observing, thinking. But, "If a man without books or reading, or reading nothing but the newspapers gets nevertheless a fresh and free play of the best thoughts upon his stock notions, and habits, he has good culture."

Hugh Black says, "Culture looks to becoming not to having or enjoying merely." He quotes with approval Hamilton Mabie, "Cumulative inward growth and a cumulative growth of productivity."

Professor Griggs names as the foundation elements loyalty to the task in hand, the trained will that does not yield to obstacles, cheerful courage in meeting the exigencies that come, serenity maintained during the petty distractions of life. He declares that not the chivalry of the nobility, but the culture of humanity is what is needed.

Culture begets poise. Carlyle said of Socrates, "He is terribly at ease in Zion."

W. C. Gannett defines culture as the ability to detect sham, having a manner of grace, gentle tones, to know and love the best. He maintains that drudgery is the secret of culture. "If I cannot realize my ideal, I can idealize my real."

To quote again from Hugh Black, "Culture should have relationships which are utilitarian in the most many-sided way—not a single door, but many."

Robert Waters writes, "The man of culture must be a man of the world, accustomed to mingle in good society and familiar with good literature."

A writer in *Poet Lore* in 1912 says, "Nature, books, human intercourse" . . . . she warns against the "microbe of ostentation." "The highest aim—the instilling of ideals, teaching men how to develop themselves through independent exercise of thought."

Professor Yocum says, "One must enjoy aesthetically and ethically as well as physically what is beautiful in nature." He gives aesthetic appreciation as a fundamental of culture and names appreciation of art and refinement of artistic taste more important than self-expression in art.

Culture begets dissatisfaction. Care is needed lest the too highly cultivated taste be robbed of the joy of living. If you cringe at a false note, you have no time to appreciate the true harmony of nature.

Victor Hugo says, "The beautiful is as useful as the useful."

No one is truly cultured whose heart does not leap up when he beholds a rainbow in the sky.

A wise mind, a refined character, a sanctioned spirit; reverence, education of the heart, and a wide vision are named as essentials.

Catholicity is essential, breadth more essential than depth; the Ohio and Mississippi are more useful than the Colorado.

Learning is many-sided. There is no place for the parochialism of the Greeks who classed all outsiders as Barbarians, somewhat paralleled in modern times by the dwellers on Nantucket, who used to divide the population of the world into Islanders (that is, Nantucketer), and Off-islanders.

Henry Thomas Buckle once wrote that grades of culture can be determined by the ordinary subjects of conversation. For example, the illiterate talk mainly of people; next above them in the scale of culture, the talk is of things, or events; while the highest type deals with ideas. Probably the most comprehensive, useful and compact definition of culture was given by Charles W. Eliot who said, "The cultivated man should have an open mind, broad sympathies and respect for diverse achievements of the human intellect." He says, "The cultivated man should express himself by tongue or pen with some degree of accuracy and elegance. He should be a man of quick perceptions, broad sympathies, and wide affinities; responsive, but independent; self-reliant, but deferential; loving truth and candor, but also moderation and proportion; courageous but gentle; not finished but perfecting."

The Responsibility of the Library

How can the library help in promoting a higher level of culture? Primarily the library provides the tools with which one increases his intelligence. Books, magazines, newspapers, are the raw materials, as well as the instruments with which he progresses in the path he chooses. The library by serviceable catalogs, booklists calling attention to the best, by book talks in the lecture room by those competent to advise, by as good surroundings as the municipal budget will allow, by providing an atmosphere of culture, may do much. The library should be the intellectual centre and clearing-house of the community. Good pictures help, now that artistic reproduction has been carried to such a degree that faithful copies are within

reach of any purse. (Medici prints for example.) Then the services of the American Federation of Arts will at small expense loan collections which I can vouch for as most excellent.

Lectures, if of high type and not merely travelogs are useful.

But the librarian can be of real service in suggesting titles which may be of a little higher grade than usual. Here, however, is the critical test of the common-sense of the librarian, also his tact. He must by all means avoid prescribing "Take this. It is good for you." It is safe to assume that people know what they want. One must not officiously or offensively suggest reading, not be too obtrusive.

Breadth is more important than depth. You need not be all things to all men, but be prepared to appreciate the legitimate demands of all classes. As the dear philosopher by the side of the road, Sam Walter Foss, said, "The first great cardinal virtues of a librarian should be toleration and enthusiasm. We put toleration into a librarian to make him judicial, and we put enthusiasm into him to make him human. He should be a good mixer. He should circulate with the longheads and the pundits, and also with the flat heads and the triflers. He should be the intellectual father-confessor of his locality. He should lecture before boys' clubs, and the Browning club, women's club, churches, lodges, boards of trade, and before every other organization from which he can possibly invite an invitation. The librarian who always stays in his library, is like a train of cars which stays in the station."

He must realize that tastes differ. One community cannot fairly be compared with another. A residential city and an industrial city have different problems.

In the same way, individuals have differing demands. Common sense is needed in studying our book-takers. We should read their characters. Light fiction may be as useful in certain cases as the latest book on radio or relativity. Fiction as long as it is decent needs no more apology than parks. Stephen Leacock may do much more good than a bibliography on the Man with the Iron Mask compiled for the Culture Club of Keokuk.

Finally, careful selection of books, catering to legitimate demands, readiness to offer assistance always, advice when needed, calling attention to the best. Then, with a clear conscience, the librarian should feel that he has done his part and not be oppressed when the average reader does not form in eager line to have his name on the waiting list for Walter Pater.

The librarian should feel the dignity of his work, and the immense opportunity for service. It is the attitude of a man for his work which spells success or failure.

Someone said that the view of one's work was like that of the three stone cutters; when asked what their work was one replied that he was getting five dollars a day, another that he was cutting stone, the third that he was building a cathedral.

Prices of German Books

Herr Harrassowitz' Visit

To the Editor of the Library Journal:

I am planning to leave Germany for a short trip to the United States, arriving at New York one of the first days of October. The purpose of my journey is to get into personal touch with American librarians in order to talk over with them all kinds of questions connected with book importing from Germany. My correspondence within the past months with many librarians and other experiences have shown me that there are widespread misunderstandings and wrong opinions about and more or less deep ill feeling against the German booktrade among the American book-buying public in general and among librarians in particular.

In order to re-establish the former state of mutual perfect understanding and confidence and believing that this can be accomplished best by a personal exchange of ideas, I have decided to go over there. I do hope that I shall have the chance of conferring with as many librarians as possible, not only my business friends, but everybody interested in the question of German books. I want to hear personally justified complaints, to discuss possibilities of redress and means of improving business relations in general and, in particular, to dissipate prejudices and feelings of discontent and distrust.

The time of my being in the States will be limited to about four weeks. Among the places I have planned to visit are: New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Haven, Boston, Buffalo, Cleveland and Chicago. For the fixing up of my definite route I should be obliged to receive any proposals and suggestions as to eventual meeting places and dates, either from individual librarians or local Library Associations. Mail will reach me care of North German Lloyd, 14-16 Pearl Street, New York City.

Hans Harrassowitz.

THERE is at present very widespread exasperation among American libraries over the exorbitant prices alleged to be charged for German publications. The situation plainly requires concerted and determined handling, even

after every allowance has been made for chaotic conditions abroad. A possible opportunity for useful action lies in the prospective visit of Mr. Hans Harrassowitz, early in October, to this country, whether or not he can speak officially for the trade.

It is suggested that all librarians with definite information or grievance on this score state their cases in writing at once to the undersigned in order that as faithful a representation of opinion in the United States as possible may be made at the very outset of Mr. Harrassowitz' investigations. Then in due season the A. L. A. Committee on Book Buying will doubtless desire to address the Börsenverein in a clearcut effort to ameliorate conditions, especially as regards learned serials before the opening of a new calendar year.

General letters of criticism will do no good. Specification is imperative. What titles are overcharged, by what publishers? Let us know the offenders.

M. L. RANEY, *Chairman,*
Committee on Book Buying.

A Librarian's Recollections

IN G. W. Prothero's Memoir of Henry Bradshaw a little incident has been preserved, which is full of the deepest significance. A friend found Bradshaw one evening sitting in his room in Cambridge with the windows wide open. Other friends were there. All were quiet and seemed expectant. In a short while the evening air was filled with a mellow sound, soft yet strong. "Ah, there it is!" said Bradshaw. Nobody else spoke. It was the muffled peal of St. Mary's bells ringing in the eventide from the old tower.

There are such moments in the life of every librarian. Few enough are on record. Mr. Cuthbertson gives us a similar glimpse of his experiences and their results in the following memorable words: "Do men really find the wishes of their youth satisfied in later life? Many, like yourself, have had youthful visions and plans of a different career, and yet the desire to live amid a world of books and draw stimulus and light for the guidance of others, who stand in the public eye, has brought, in the meridian of life, many moments of satisfaction and delight. Material pleasures have been very evanescent. And the philosophy of life somehow seems to be this from my point of view, that to obtain contentment and peace of mind, we have to subdue ourselves to the conditions of life."

The young may find inspiration in the facts that Mr. Cuthbertson, a native of Kilmarnock, served a short time in a wholesale warehouse, having perviously been a clerk in a commercial house for two years, before he was appointed to an assistantship in the library of the Philosophical Institution at Edinburgh. This library then consisted of about forty thousand volumes, and the hours of duty were from 9:30 a. m. to 9:30 p. m. with an interval for a combined dinner and tea! Yet he pursued in his spare time the study of French and published, in 1878, two volumes of poems. In 1880 he entered the University Library and thus was transferred to a world of three hundred thousand volumes and eight thousand manuscripts. His reminiscences of the many years of service, the professors and students, are intensely interesting, and his observations of men and events alternately humorous and critical. There is a profusion of fine anecdote. As for criticism, the result of constructive philosophy, the following will serve as an example: "Poets are born, not made, and I have come to the conclusion, so are librarians. Some men have an inherent love of books, and the faculty of grasping the meaning of literature. . . . It is the mental equipment of the librarian which makes him of value but which very few on a Library Committee take into account, because some of the members could not recognize a librarian on the staff if they saw him in the street. . . ."

The milieu of the Edinburgh University seems conducive to a long, happy, active intellectual life, if we may judge from Mr. Cuthbertson's reminiscences. We are introduced to a group of thinkers and workers who follow historical lines and have well-defined methods—and do not forever discuss lines of development and methods. Under such conditions intellectual pursuits, matters of the spirit, research and jeu d'esprit will blossom freely. In such a group, books are truly an adjunct to free human activity, and life is a voyage of discovery, as evident from this significant remark: "In many of the backwaters of literature there are books to be read, which, although not acknowledged by the world as great, still do for the mind and body what no classic can do."

The cheerfulness of Mr. Cuthbertson's book is uplifting and enlightening. It shows the virtue of long continued service in one place. "I was thirty years in the University Library ere earning what might be called 'a living wage'." But out of his life grew at least sixteen books —and personal contentment. "Forty-six years is a long spell to spend among books. But" concludes Mr. Cuthbertson, "it is a delightful life."

J. CHRISTIAN BAY.

* Recollections of a Library Life 1876-1922, by David Cuthbertson, sub-librarian, Edinburgh University Library. Edinburgh: James Thin, 1923. 211p. 8vo.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

TWICE-A-MONTH SEPTEMBER 15, 1923

THE American Library Institute meeting, held at Lake Placid immediately succeeding Library Week at Lake George, was especially interesting because it carried the thoughts of some of the elders back to the formation of the Institute, which was first talked over at Lake Placid twenty years ago, in a gathering of members of the A. L. A. Council and other leading librarians present during "Library Week." Here Mr. Dewey broached this one of his several library inspirations and rendered its verdict in favor of the plan, tho against the decided opposition of several of those present. In 1904 Mr. Dewey formally presented the plan at the meeting of the Council in St. Louis and he was appointed chairman of a committee to prepare plans. This committee reported at the Portland convention of 1905, when the A. L. A. in general meeting voted for the adoption of the plan by which past presidents of the Association were to be charter members and were to select other members not exceeding one hundred, with the proviso that members of the Executive Board and of the Council for any year were during that year to have a place at the Institute meetings. The Institute has been of more or less interest and importance in the score of years succeeding, and the Lake Placid meeting was justified if only for Dr. Bostwick's admirable presentation of the subject of standardization and Miss Bogle's informal statement as to the future outcome of her work in France, both of which will have space later in the LIBRARY JOURNAL. In addition to a score of members of the Institute, as many other librarians were present and all appreciated to the full the invitation extended by the pioneer and veteran librarian, whose remarkable powers of organization had their full fruition in the extraordinary development of the Lake Placid Club, an organization unique in social entertainment. Thruout the visit of the Institute Mr. Dewey was everywhere present as its host, and everywhere else, to put an Irish bull, there was invisible but emphatic evidence of his mastery of detail, which, with his genius for suggestion and large vision, has meant so much to the A. L. A. and to the whole library profession. Mr. Dewey's present vision is for the development at the Lake Placid Club, in the new Agora building and otherwise, of an educational foundation which will have important relations with the entire educational development of the future.

"LIBRARY WEEK" at Lake George was notable not only for the large number of librarians who gathered there at the invitation of the New York Library Association, the registration of 433 covering representatives from twenty-one states and two Canadian provinces, but especially for the fact that it was a regional meeting, and the largest of such meetings, including a large delegation from the Massachusetts and other New England Associations, as well as from west, north and south. The week was a happy combination of business and pleasure, with meetings forenoons and evenings, leaving the afternoons free for the many excursions by water and "hikes" by land which had been planned or were organized impromptu. Silver Bay, planned on Y. M. C. A. lines for the purpose of such conferences, is a most delightful place for these meetings, but its administration leaves much to be desired in the way of upkeep of buildings and a proper dietetic department. Notable are the fine auditorium for the larger meetings and the charming library built from rough field boulders, evident in the interior as on the exterior of the walls. The charming place and the moderate program afforded opportunity for those personal talks, which are one of the happiest features of library meetings, and for innumerable round tables, with attendance sometimes reaching 100, where the free play of conversational discussion was especially enjoyable and helpful. Too much credit cannot be given to Dr. Shearer and his associates of the Grosvenor Library at Buffalo for their part in

organizing a meeting five times as large as that which the A. L. A. in its early years held at Lake George, and particular thanks should be accorded Miss Mildred E. Ross, who handled the difficult problem of accommodations with the skill and ease which library training should properly develop.

THE subject of library buildings was that most stressed at the Lake George meeting, not only thru the delightful address by Henry J. Carlson, the partner of that friend of libraries, J. Randolph Coolidge, but in papers before the large libraries meetings. Mr. Carlson especially emphasized the fact that generous donors must be expected to double their generosity to keep pace with present costs, and his address was full of sympathetic suggestions. Other papers dealt with the location of a central building and the radius for branch libraries, and some of these papers we shall give in later issues.

ONE of the best examples of how to build to triumphant result is that of the Connecticut State Library, where Mr. Godard, as state librarian, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State acted together in planning for the joint library and court house and in consultation with the architect in developing the exterior plan of the building from its inside needs, the only right way of building. It is pleasant to note that Mr. Godard has recently completed his twenty-fifth year of continuous service in the Connecticut State Library. This has resulted in a continuity of experience which has its fitting culmination in the splendid building. In the few years since its erection, this has collected for safe preservation—thru the invitation of the fine accommodation in the spacious room to go to the town records, each town with a "safe deposit" department—a great proportion of these valuable records in one of the earliest colonies and the original thirteen states.

LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

COMMITTEES for the year 1923-1924 have been appointed as follows:

Affiliation of Chapters with the A. L. A. Edward D. Tweedell, The John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill., chairman; Carl B. Roden.

A. L. A. Headquarters Building. H. H. B. Meyer, Library of Congress, chairman; Harrison W. Craver, Edward D. Tweedell.

Bibliography. E. C. Richardson, Princeton University Library, chairman; W. N. C. Carlton, George W. Cole, Andrew Keogh, H. H. B. Meyer.

Bookbinding. Mary E. Wheelock, Cleveland Public Library, chairman; John Archer, Franklin H. Price, Gertrude Stiles.

Book Buying. M. L. Raney, The Johns Hopkins University Library, Baltimore, Md., chairman; Carl L. Cannon, Asa Don Dickinson, Hiller C. Wellman, Purd B. Wright.

Books for Europe. H. M. Lydenberg, New York Public Library, chairman; W. W. Bishop, J. T. Gerould, H. H. B. Meyer.

Cataloging. Margaret Mann, Engineering Societies Library, 29 W. 39th St., New York, chairman; Emma F. Cragin, T. F. Currier, J. C. M. Hanson, Sophie K. Hiss, Theresa Hitchler, Harriet E. Howe, A. G. S. Josephson, Charles Martel, Anna M. Monrad.

Civil Service Relations (Appointed by Council). George F. Bowerman, Public Library, Washington, D. C., chairman; C. F. D. Belden, M. J. Ferguson, J. T. Jennings, Carl B. Roden, P. L. Windsor.

Committee on Committees. C. B. Lester, Wisconsin Free Library Commission, chairman; Jesse Cunningham, Anne M. Mulheron.

Constitution and By-Laws. Henry N. Sanborn, Public Library, Bridgeport, Conn., chairman; M. S. Dudgeon, M. G. Wyer.

Committee to Co-operate with Institute for Government Research. Arthur E. Bostwick, St. Louis Public Library, chairman; George F. Bowerman, Florence Overton, Samuel H. Ranck, Josephine A. Rathbone, Frank K. Walter, M. G. Wyer.

Council Program. Judson T. Jennings, Chairman; C. F. D. Belden (Term expires 1924), Fannie C. Rawson (Term expires 1925), Milton J. Ferguson (Term expires 1926).

Decimal Classification Advisory Committee. C. W. Andrews, The John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill., chairman; W. S. Biscoe, Dorcas Fellows, Sophie K. Hiss, Roxana G. Johnson, William S. Merrill, Adah Patton, C. W. Perley, Julia Pettee.

Editorial. Hiller C. Wellman, City Library Association, Springfield, Mass., chairman; M. S. Dudgeon, Josephine A. Rathbone, Carl B. Roden, Joseph L. Wheeler.

Education. Harriet A. Wood, Minnesota Department of Education, St. Paul, chairman; Harriet K. Avery, Elva L. Bascom, Jasmine Britton, C. C. Certain, Annie S. Cutter, Anne T. Eaton, Alice I. Hazeltine, Edna M. Hull, May Ingles, Lucy M. Lewis, Joy E. Morgan, Martha Pritchard, Mary E. Robbins, J. W. Searson, Lillian H. Smith, Frank K. Walter, Sherman Williams, Adeline B. Zachert.

Elections. Helen A. Bagley, Public Library, Oak Park, Ill., chairman; Harriet E. Leitch, James A. McMillen, Charles H. Stone, William Teal, Winifred Ver Nooy.

Federal and State Relations. J. I. Wyer, New York State Library, Albany, chairman; Claribel R. Barnett, Johnson Brigham, M. S. Dudgeon, H. H. B. Meyer, Joy E. Morgan, C. Seymour Thompson, Elizabeth H. West, Edwin Wiley.

Fiftieth Anniversary. Carl B. Roden, Public Library, Chicago, Ill., chairman; Mary Eileen Ahern, John Ashhurst, C. F. D. Belden, W. W. Bishop, Arthur E. Bostwick, M. J. Ferguson, W. E. Henry, Frederick C. Hicks, Clara W. Hunt, Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., Lloyd W. Josselyn, Andrew Keogh, W. H. Kerr, George H. Locke, H. M. Lydenberg, Margaret Mann, Cornelia Marvin, H. H. B. Meyer, E. R. Perry, Alice S. Tyler, George B. Utley, Hiller C. Wellman, Joseph L. Wheeler, J. I. Wyer, President J. T. Jennings, ex-officio.

Finance. Carl B. Roden, Public Library, Chicago, Ill., chairman; H. W. Craver, Helen A. Bagley.

Hospital Libraries. E. Kathleen Jones, Div. of Public Libraries, Massachusetts Department of Education, Boston, chairman; Miriam E. Carey, Perrie Jones, Mrs. Grace W. Myers, Elizabeth Pomeroy, Grace Shellenberger, C. W. Sumner, Frank K. Walter.

Institutional Libraries. Miriam E. Carey, Minnesota State Board of Control, St. Paul, chairman; W. S. Bassett, Florence R. Curtis, Ralf P. Emerson, E. Kathleen Jones, Mary B. Palmer, J. Ritchie Patterson, Julia A. Robinson, Charlotte Templeton, Nellie Williams.

International Relations. Herbert Putnam, Library of Congress, chairman; E. H. Anderson, R. R. Bowker, Gratia A. Countryman, J. C. Dana, Electra C. Doren, T. W. Koch, George H. Locke, E. C. Richardson, Elizabeth H. West.

Legislation (Appointed by Council). W. F. Yust, Public Library, Rochester, N. Y., chairman; George F. Bowerman, W. O. Carson, Mary E. Downey, M. J. Ferguson, W. J. Hamilton, John B. Kaiser, C. B. Lester, Samuel H. Ranck, Fannie C. Rawson, Mary U. Rothrock, Carl Vitz, O. L. Wildermuth.

Library Administration. Franklin F. Hopper, New York Public Library, chairman; Jeannette M. Drake, J. T. Gerould, Ethel F. McCullough, William R. Watson.

Library Co-operation with Hispanic Peoples. Peter H. Goldsmith, 407 West 117th St., New York City, chairman; Frederick C. Hicks, Mrs. Maud D. Sullivan.

Library Co-operation with Other Countries. W. W. Bishop, University of Michigan General Library, Ann Arbor, Mich., chairman; Fred Landon, Katherine H. Wead.

Sub-committees:

Far East. Cornelia Marvin, Oregon State Library, chairman. *Children's Work in Other Countries;* Annie Carroll Moore, New York Public Library, chairman; Jessie Carson.

Library Revenues. (Appointed by Council). Samuel H. Ranck, Grand Rapids Public Library, Mich., chairman; Iva M. Butlin, J. T. Gerould, Clara Howard, W. H. Kerr, Sarah E. McCardle, Hiller C. Wellman, Harriet A. Wood.

Library Service (Committee of Five). Arthur E. Bostwick, St. Louis Public Library, Mo., chairman; John B. Kaiser, Florence Overton, A. S. Root, Bessie Sargeant Smith.

Library Training. M. G. Wyer, University of Nebraska Library, Lincoln, Neb., chairman; W. W. Appleton, Mary Emogene Hazeltine, John A. Lowe, Margaret Mann, Effie L. Power, Martha C. Pritchard, Carrie E. Scott, Frank K. Walter.

Membership. John Adams Lowe, Brooklyn Public Library, chairman; Lila May Chapman, H. T. Dougherty, Howard L. Hughes, Esther Johnston, Sarah E. McCardle, Anne M. Mulheron, Rena Reese, Mrs. Roberta D. Stewart, Mrs. J. A. Thompson.

National Certification and Training. Frank K. Walter, University of Minnesota Library, chairman; L. J. Bailey, C. C. Certain, Mary B. Day, Cornelia Marvin, Josephine A. Rathbone, Ernest J. Reece, Althea Warren, Louis R. Wilson.

Nominating Committee. George B. Utley, The Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill., chairman; Claribel R. Barnett, Jeannette M. Drake, F. K. W. Drury, C. Seymour Thompson.

Oberly Memorial Fund. Claribel R. Barnett, Department of Agriculture Library, Washington, D. C., chairman; W. W. Bishop, Mary Emogene Hazeltine, Mary G. Lacy, Mary K. Bryan, Erwin F. Smith, Edward D. Tweedell.

Program. J. T. Jennings, Public Library, Seattle, Wash., chaiiman; Marilla W. Freeman, Carl H. Milam.

Public Documents. Carl Vitz, Public Library, Toledo, Ohio, chairman; Mary Billingsley, Sylvester Carter, Edith Guerrier, Alice J. Haines, Mary A. Hartwell, Clarence B. Lester, Gilbert O. Ward, Elizabeth H. West, Jessie M. Woodford.

Publicity. Nathan R. Levin, Chicago Public Library, chairman; Mary Frank, Carleton B. Joeckel, Edna G. Moore, Ralph Munn, Margery C. Quigley, William N. Seaver, Charles B. Shaw, C. E. Sherman, Elizabeth M. Smith, C. W. Sumner, L. R. Wilson, Ida F. Wright.

Reprints and Inexpensive Editions. L. L. Dickerson, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C., chairman; Gertrude E. Andrus, Lloyd W. Josselyn, Louise Prouty, Mary A. True.

Resources of American Libraries. J. T. Gerould, Princeton University Library, chairman; C. W. Andrews, Willard Austen, W. W. Bishop, Andrew Keogh, Harold L. Leupp, A. H. Shearer, P. L. Windsor.

Revision of Adams' Manual of Historical Literature. A. H. Shearer, Grosvenor Library, Buffalo, N. Y., chairman; H. H. B. Meyer.

Salaries. Charles H. Compton, St. Louis Public Library, chairman; Franklin F. Hopper, Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., Mary R. Kobetich, Sydney B. Mitchell, Elizabeth M. Smith.

Schemes of Library Service (Appointed by Council). Josephine A. Rathbone, School of Library Science, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y., chairman; A. L. Bailey, Charles H. Compton, Gratia A. Countryman, Franklin F. Hopper, John A. Lowe, Florence Overton, Mary Parsons, Grace D. Rose, Charles E. Rush, William R. Watson, P. L. Windsor.

Transfer of Library War Service Activities. H. H. B. Meyer, Library of Congress, chairman; Claribel R. Barnett, Carl H. Milam, J. I. Wyer.

Travel. F. W. Faxon, 83 Francis Street, Boston, Mass., chairman; Charles H. Brown, John F. Phelan, Franklin H. Price.

Union List of Periodicals (Appointed by Council). H. M. Lydenberg, Public Library, New York City, chairman; C. W. Andrews, Willard Austen, Arthur E. Bostwick, J. T. Gerould.

Ventilation and Lighting of Public Library Buildings (Appointed by Council). Samuel H. Ranck, Grand Rapids Public Library, chairman; C. W. Andrews, H. M. Lydenberg.

Ways and Means Committee. C. W. Andrews, The John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill., chairman; E. H. Anderson, J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., H. W. Craver, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, E. C. Richardson, Alice S. Tyler.

Work with the Blind. Lucille A. Goldthwaite, New York Public Library, chairman; Arthur E. Bostwick, Mary C. Chamberlain, Mrs. Grace D. Davis, Mrs. Emma N. Delfino, Mabel Gillis, Roberta A. Griffith, Edward Peterson, Mrs. Gertrude T. Rider, Laura M. Sawyer, S. C. Swift.

Work with the Foreign Born. Mrs. Eleanor E. Ledbetter, Cleveland Public Library, chairman; Ida F. Farrar, Josephine Gratiaa, Dorothy Hurlbert, Esther Johnston, Margery Quigley, Mrs. Francis W. Wetmore.

"LIBRARY WEEK" AT LAKE GEORGE

"LIBRARY WEEK" at Lake George, which was also a regional A. L. A. Conference promoted by the New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts Associations, The Bibliographical Society of America, and the Librarians of Large Libraries, had a record attendance of four hundred and thirty-three librarians from places all the way from Maine and Quebec to Washington and British Columbia.

Few formal papers were presented, informal conferences occupying most of the groups and the noon hour conferences on work with young people, book selection, mending and school work under the leadership of Miss Jordan, Miss Brown, Miss Achilles and Miss Vought respectively, being practically "three day institutes."

Almost every afternoon of the week and some evenings were devoted to informal entertainment or recreation: boat rides, mountain climbing, "sing-songs" of library ballads, and plays presented by two much appreciated groups, the 792's of Brooklyn, who presented Winnifred Hawkridge's "The Florist Shop" and the Bagdad Players of New York, who gave William Burt Gamble's "In Bashi-Boo." Impromptu contributions to the delights of the week included songs by Eleanor Haseloff of Brooklyn and others, a talk on the history of the Lake George region by Dr. Karl Peterson, a poetry hour by Frederic G. Melcher, and a review of American short story writing by Julian Kilman, Immigration Commissioner at Buffalo, whose avocation is short story writing. Mr. Kilman believes that libraries should include more freely in their reading rooms the wholesome so-called popular type of short story magazine because such magazines are as ably written and as true to life as some of the more conservative favorites.

Scholarship winners were honored as usual at a dinner on Wednesday evening presided over by the secretary, Margery Quigley, chairman of the Scholarship Committee. The awards were as follows:

Communities of 1,000 or less: Dorothy B. Payne, Shelter Island; Mary E. Maxwell, Camillus; Maud M. Horton, Amagansett.

One thousand to 2,000: Christina McLennen, Fayetteville; Harriet Rogers, Randolph; Lillian M. Rogers, Portville; Mary M. Crandall, Warrendburg.

Two thousand to 5,000: H. N. W. Magill, Port Jefferson; Marcia Dalphin, Rye; Emma W. Piehl, Westfield; Louise N. Miller, Dobbs Ferry.

Five thousand to 10,000: Lillian Achilles, Albion; Alma D. Custead, Patchogue; Ethel M. Fuller, Fredonia.

Additional award: Mary I. White, New Berlin.

Honorable mention: Elizabeth S. Jackson, Cazenovia; and Janet Cornish, Unadilla.

Officers for 1923-1924 are: President; John A. Lowe of the Brooklyn Public Library; vice-president: Mildred Pope of the New York State Library Extension Division, Albany, N. Y.; secretary: Ettie C. Hedges, East Hampton (L. I.) Free Library.

The topic upon which the scholarship awards have been based was the collection of historical material, particularly of local history material, and the creation of an active interest in its use. This topic ran thru many of the addresses of the conference, especially those of the Commissioner for Secondary Education, James Sullivan, Secretary Peter Nelson of the New York State Historical Association and those of Rev. J. V. Moldenhawer on Internationalism and Books and of President Srearer on the library as an index to social movements.

Dr. Shearer reviewed the position of the library in past ages in an attempt to show its relationship to general conditions: In the middle ages the churchmen needed and, therefore, collected libraries; during the Renaissance the learned class gathered around the universities; in American colonial times libraries were for the clergy and colleges; in the early days under the Constitution they were for the political leaders—"the rich, the well-born and the able." The first tax supported library was established during Jackson's administration and state library laws followed shortly after. The rising movement, checked by the Civil War, continued until libraries found themselves as an institution and a profession in 1876.

Followed very great expansion in the number and in the functions, and the library was no longer a passive receptacle but an active force carrying its resources to people who might not otherwise have been interested. "In its support, its control and direction by the state, its response to people's demands, it became an example of socialism. It fulfills the requirements of the socialist platform as laid down in 1875 and recently reiterated. The whole production of labor is due to society, meaning in this case, of course, brain labor, which is accepted by the socialist as an essential component of labor as a whole. The platform demands that the means of production should be transformed into common property of society, which has been done with books in the libraries. The distribution of the brain-laborer's work is made equitably, according to the expenditure of effort made by the laborer himself. Since there is no material reward evident, all this has been done almost unknown to the library worker as well as to the theorist or agitator outside of the library, and far from arousing fears on the part of the conservatives, has been encouraged by them. But this is not the end of the matter. Thru libraries, individuals have been encouraged to purchase their own books, that is the tools

of their trade. The publishers recognize this fact, and librarians have commented on it. The result will be a larger and better individualism, due to the existence of this socialistic agency and if the library is in the fore front of social movements, then it is possible to judge from this example, that the fears of the deadening effects of socialism upon indivduals will not be realized, but that socialism will be a stage in a development of individualism."

At the conference on State Relations, presided over by Paul M. Paine, it could be seen that emphasis is changing from state subsidy for books alone to state aid for service. An outstanding item of legislation reported by Mr. Yust was that by which state aid and local tax may be withdrawn. Mr. Yust's digests of State Legislation will appear in full later in the Library Journal.

Mr. Watson's statement of the status of certification and proposed subvention, which provoked long discussion, will be given at length in a later number. The presentation of the first certificate to Asa Wynkoop, inspector of libraries for New York State was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

In connection with the discussion of adequate training facilities Professor Azariah Smith Root explained the aims and standards of the proposed American Correspondence School of Librarianship. He stated that there had been secured as directors of courses Joseph L. Wheeler, Martha Wilson and others and that a high standard of work would be maintained.

Bernice Hodges of Rochester presented clearly the pension system now in operation in thirty-one municipalities of New York State, making constant statistical comparison with commercial insurance policies of similar character.

The report of the Institutes Committee, one of the committees of longest standing and of most accomplishment, will be printed in full in *New York Libraries*. The report is a record of increased usefulness as it shows a total attendance of 1328 persons, 440 free or public libraries represented, and 29 meetings held.

In a conference on the library and radio, the library was represented by Frank L. Tolman of the State Library, and those engaged in the popularizing of radio, by Arthur W. Lynch, editor of *Radio Broadcast*. Mr. Tolman believes that the library must reckon with the home radio set, which takes the place in large measure of home entertainment offered by reading. He feels that at the present stage in the development of the radio no library should attempt community concerts in library buildings. In the vicinity of broadcasting stations, however, libraries should consider as part of their legitimate program the broadcasting of worthy stories for children by the children's librarian as substitute for stories of poor content, often badly told, which now form a part of so many "bedtime" programs.

Mr. Lynch outlined ways in which he believed the radio and library work might best connect, mentioning especially the broadcasting of popular library publicity, which broadcasting stations will be found glad to include in their programs.

An informal conference of college librarians under Dr. Carleton's chairmanship on the relations of the librarian to the faculty, and as a development of this topic, the faculty library committee, library council, etc., brought out the fact that during the last quarter of a century there has been increasing tendency to regard the librarian as a member of the faculty with the privileges as well as the responsibilities belonging to that position.

Librarians of large libraries held three sessions, the first of which was devoted to the book stock, its selection and use, and the other two to library buildings. Some of the papers read are to be printed in full later, among them those contributed by Miss Doren, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Stetson. A paper by Henry J. Carlson read at a general session with be given in an early number of the Library Journal.

Library people have co-operated little if at all with such organizations as the Foreign Language Information Service, which supplies a vast amount of material to the foreign press of America, or with the American Viewpoint Society, which is trying to reach the foreign-born by publishing books in English giving information concerning America, said Walter L. Brown, of Buffalo, in his discussion of the need of translations of American books "which will carry to new Americans the meaning and the spirit of America thru the only possible medium, their language."

The A. L. A. Committee on Work With Foreign-Born, of which Eleanor E. Ledbetter, of Cleveland, is chairman, has recognized this need in the series of articles begun in the Library Journal last year. A committee of the New York Library Association, headed by Esther Johnston, went a step farther in offering a list of some fifty American books which librarians would like to see translated into the tongues of the immigrants, and in arranging for the translation of five books into Yiddish (see Library Journal, 1922, v. 47, p. 354). The committee, however, did not succeed in getting sufficient orders from libraries to guarantee the publisher a minimum sale. The project will be taken up again. Large libraries should be more em-

phatic in expressing the need for such books, and should stand ready to meet any publisher half way by ordering any books from the New York list in any language that he is willing to issue, said Mr. Brown.

A central office to compile short popular lists of books and to print the lists compiled by individual libraries, with the advantage to subscribing libraries of saving the time of a high-priced worker, and having a much wider variety of lists to offer their public—this is the project which Zaidee Brown is now engaged in developing with the co-operation of the H. W. Wilson Company. The excellent A. L. A. lists of recent years have pointed the way, but the A. L. A. has attempted little in offering short, inexpensive lists to guide people in their casual reading. Miss Brown's plan is not intended to duplicate the work of the A. L. A., or of individual libraries, but to supplement it. The central office would print larger editions than the compiling library needed, and offer the extra copies for sale, so that the list would be more widely useful, and the library would benefit by the lower cost. Time and experience would show the kind of lists most in demand, and the risk might largely be obviated by a system of advance orders.

Final points for discussion raised by Miss Brown are: Is the plan applicable to large city systems, with numerous branches; that is, would it be necessary to have all the books in every branch? Would it be practicable to organize a group of critics to check the long tentative lists, and would the librarians in this group be willing to give the names of persons on their staffs, or known to them, specially fitted for this? What would be the best way to organize this group of critics? Is $4 a good limit on price of books to be included? On the whole, is fifty per cent about the right proportion for fiction? What would be a fair amount for a library to spend on publicity of this kind for its books—one cent a year for each reader, or perhaps $4 per $1,000 of total income?

In the process of reduction of the list to about forty titles, the following general principles guide the selection: Omit all out-of-print books; omit all expensive books, say over $4 in price; keep in mind the unsophisticated reader who knows nothing of critical reviews.

A way must be found to lessen the theft and mutilation of library books, said Purd B. Wright of Kansas City in a contributed paper, and all librarians will rise up and call blessed the man who will develop a plan to accomplish this.

In Kansas City losses have been particularly heavy from the collection of books on oils, petroleum, geology and allied substances, built up by the library on account of its proximity to the oil fields. The condition is not purely local, for a user of the library who made application at one of the largest public libraries in Oklahoma for a state report on petroleum, was told that not a copy of any state oil report was left in the library.

As proof of an occasional change of heart, Mr. Wright read a letter received from Heber Springs, Ark., saying in part:

> You may look for a box of books by express which you have missed from the library. I have always had an insatiable desire to learn and study up along two lines, viz.: geology and farming, and I just kept on taking books, one after another. I did it just like any other thief. I have always been hampered in my desire for knowledge by lack of money and have always had an inclination to take other people's property, but thank God! I have realized the folly of it and am trying to make amends. . . . I am including in the box a new set of Elinor Glyn's System of Story Telling, and several other books to help make up for the deed and you may expect a remittance in money just as soon as I can scrape it up.

Remedies, or palliatives, suggested by Mr. Wright, include a very strict supervision of library books and users, including an inspection of dates, etc., of all books taken from the issue room. The staff, not the honest library user, must bear the onus. A practical experiment of this sort conducted in Kansas City cut the book loss to two. It may be necessary to install inspectors behind high screens in the reference rooms, similar to United States inspectors in all our large post-offices. "Only it will be hard for us to regard every library user as a vandal until he proves himself innocent."

Mr. Wright contributed also to the discussion on the location of the library building in a paper read by Mr. Evans, envisaging the library building of the future, "a beautiful building . . . located in the heart of things, modeled on some of the better types of modern business buildings, that will commend itself to all, not only for its beauty, for its adaptability, for its purpose. It will be many stories high, with lecture halls, departmental libraries, with quick elevator service; not sprawled all over a city block, squat in its surroundings. . . ."

Branches do and will continue to serve community needs, he said, but no branch can render full library service. The so-called business branches, deservedly popular, are an unnecessary drain on library extension, and are necessary simply because the main library is improperly located. "Library buildings locations in Cleveland and Cincinnati, not to mention some other cities of note, should be studied carefully before a decision is made to erect a main library building miles from the heart of things."

IN THE LIBRARY WORLD

VERMONT

The earliest known association library in Vermont of uninterrupted life to date is the Brookfield Library Association, says Rebecca W. Wright of the Seattle Public Library, and formerly secretary of the Vermont Free Public Library Commission in a chapter on Vermont libraries contributed to the fifth volume of Walter H. Crockett's "Vermont, the Green Mountain State" (New York: Century History Company, 1923). It was started "to promote useful knowledge and piety" in 1791, and the books were auctioned off quarterly to the shareholders. The library had become a free library with town support when it celebrated its one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary in 1916. TheWilliamstown Social Library, with similar auctions at quartery meetings, dates from 1801.

Bradford incorporated its library in 1796, the first to be incorporated in the state. Middlebury College began its collection in 1800; the State Library at Montpelier in 1825. In 1810 Thaddeus Stevens and other pupils of the Caledonia County Grammar School at Peacham started the Peacham Juvenile Library Association.

In 1893, one year before the state legislature passed a law establishing the Board of Library Commissioners (now under the Department of Education), there were fifty-nine libraries in the state, of which comparatively few were free. The Commission was empowered to give one hundred dollars in books to each town desiring to establish a free town library and complying with the laws as to minimum appropriation, election of trustees, etc. Forty-one towns applied for this state gift in 1895, and nineteen in 1896. In 1907 the legislature voted $1,000 per year for aid in books to active town libraries, for which they should apply annually. Two years later the amount was increased to $1,500. The average number of libraries each year to which this aid has been given is sixty. Provision was made in 1911 for funds for books to be placed in four state institutions.

The Vermont Federation of Women's Clubs assisted the Commission in starting its system of traveling libraries. Eleven collections were given by federated clubs in 1900, and the legislature made a first annual appropriation of $600 for more books in this department.

Vermont was the first state to supply its soldiers on the Mexican border with books in 1916. At the request of Chaplain John M. Thomas, then president of Middlebury College, the commission sent 265 books. In 1917 nearly $17,000 was raised for A. L. A. Library War Service, and in 1918 the secretary of the commission as state chairman collected 23,832 books.

The Vermont Library Association, formed in 1894 and re-organized in 1903, has co-operated with the Commission in its yearly program and in holding library institutes.

NEW YORK

Albany. The two courses of six weeks each given last year were so successful that two similar courses were undertaken this summer. The programs of the two courses were much the same as those of last year, including instruction in administration, book selection, work with children, reference work, cataloging, classification, accessioning, shelf listing, loan work—the chief differences being that the two courses ran parallel thruout the entire six weeks and that more of the instruction was given in common.

Mildred H. Pope was again in charge of the course for free public library workers, and Sabra W. Vought, of the course for school librarians. Zaidee Brown, gave the instruction in classification, subject headings and book selection for adults. Clara W. Hunt gave a series of lectures on Library Work with Children. Other courses and lectures were given by eight visiting lecturers and by members of the staff of the State Education Department.

Forty-seven students were in attendance. In addition to those registered from New York State, ten students came from: Colorado, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.

Chautauqua. The second annual of the Chautauqua Library Conference, under the auspices of the Faculty and Alumnae of the Chautauqua School for Librarians, was held August 1-4 with a good attendance from New York and neighboring states. Lectures in the Chautauqua general program as well as special library conferences and social functions made the meeting a memorable one. Of the eighty-six present at the annual dinner seventy-two were students at the school.

New York City. Beginning on September 16, the library of the Metropolitan Museum, which has a reference collection of about forty-five thousand volumes, will be open to the public on Sundays from 1 to 6 p. m., instead of on week days only, as heretofore.

OHIO

Cleveland. Advance registration for the year 1923-4 gives promise of the largest attendance in the history of the Western Reserve Library School. The enrollment for the General Course is 32, two of these being for half time. Seventeen are enrolled for the special course in Library Work with Children; of these 11 have had general training either in this or some other library school. The geographical representation extends from Rhode Island to the state of Washington and there is one from Hawaii.

KANSAS

From a compilation of 1921 Kansas library statistics, made by the Kellogg Library, Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia, the following significant items stand out:

(a) The median library tax levy for 1921 was 5/10 of a mill; the highest, 10/10, or 1 mill; the lowest, 15/100. Few cities seem to feel that a low assessed valuation calls for a correspondingly larger library tax levy, and that the chief criterion for library support should be per capita expenditure and not mills per dollar.

(b) The total expenditure divided by the population gives the expenditure per capita. For 1921 this median was 58.8 cents; the lowest, 15.7 cents; the highest, 90.3 cents. The A. L. A. standard is $1 per year per capita.

(c) The median circulation (whether fiction or non-fiction is not indicated) was 4.4 volumes per capita; the highest, 13.1; the lowest, 1.4.

(d) It cost the average library 11.4 cents to check out a book. The highest 1921 cost per volume circulated was 31.5 cents; the lowest, 3.1 cents. (This figure is arrived at by dividing the total expenditure by the total circulation and takes no account, of course, of the reference work, the work with schools, etc.)

(e) The median "turnover" for 1921 was 3.7; the lowest was 1.1; the highest, 7.8.

WISCONSIN

Madison. The third summer library conference conducted by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission was held at Madison July 16-28. The chief work of the conference was organized in three courses of lectures in the mornings, and in round table discussions in the afternoons. The subjects of the morning courses were social economics and the library; books: their use and selection, and administration problems. Expert assistance was rendered by many members of the University faculty for lectures in their own special fields. The usual summer sessions conducted by the library school were given up for this year, and the faculty with Miss Hazeltine as chairman was in immediate charge of the organization of the work of the conference.

The choice of content of the morning courses and the high grade of instruction offered brought this work within the standards of university requirements. The College of Letters and Science voted that two course credits might be granted to students electing the morning work doing the required outside reading and problems and passing a final examination. Eight students took this work in this way, all being either graduates or persons entitled to advanced standing.

Exhibits were located in rooms in the Vocational School across the street from the library school, and were planned to correlate with the program. Selected books for school libraries and children's books, library supplies and furnishings, building plans, publicity material, binding work, the A. L. A. County exhibit, were all on display here. The Democrat Printing Company prepared a special exhibit at its own plant near by. Gaylord Brothers assigned their field librarian, Ruth MacNeil, to this meeting for the full two weeks. Especially useful exhibits were installed by the Library Bureau and the H. W. Wilson Co.

Entertainment features in the evenings included an exhibition of marionettes, a dramatic reading, an author's reading by Professor William Ellery Leonard, the Devereux Players at the university's open air theatre, and an all-conference picnic on the first Saturday afternoon.

The total registration of the conference was 246, of whom 151 were from Wisconsin, 23 from Illinois, and 14 from Indiana. In all nineteen states were represented as well as China and Denmark.

COLORADO

Denver. The Denver chapter of the American Institute of Architects introduced a bill passed by the last Legislature permitting them to devote $5,500 to the purchase of architectural books and to place these books for public use in the Denver Public Library. The Colorado Engineering Council recently placed about $4,000 worth of engineering books in the Library and plans to spend about $15,000 more for the same purpose. Both societies expect to add to their collections annually.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles. A bond issue of $500,000 for the purpose of acquiring lots intervening between the Normal Hill site of the new building of the Los Angeles Public Library and Flower Street on the west was recently authorized by a vote of 61,997 to 14,333, with only three precincts out of 862 missing. The lots in question are being condemned.

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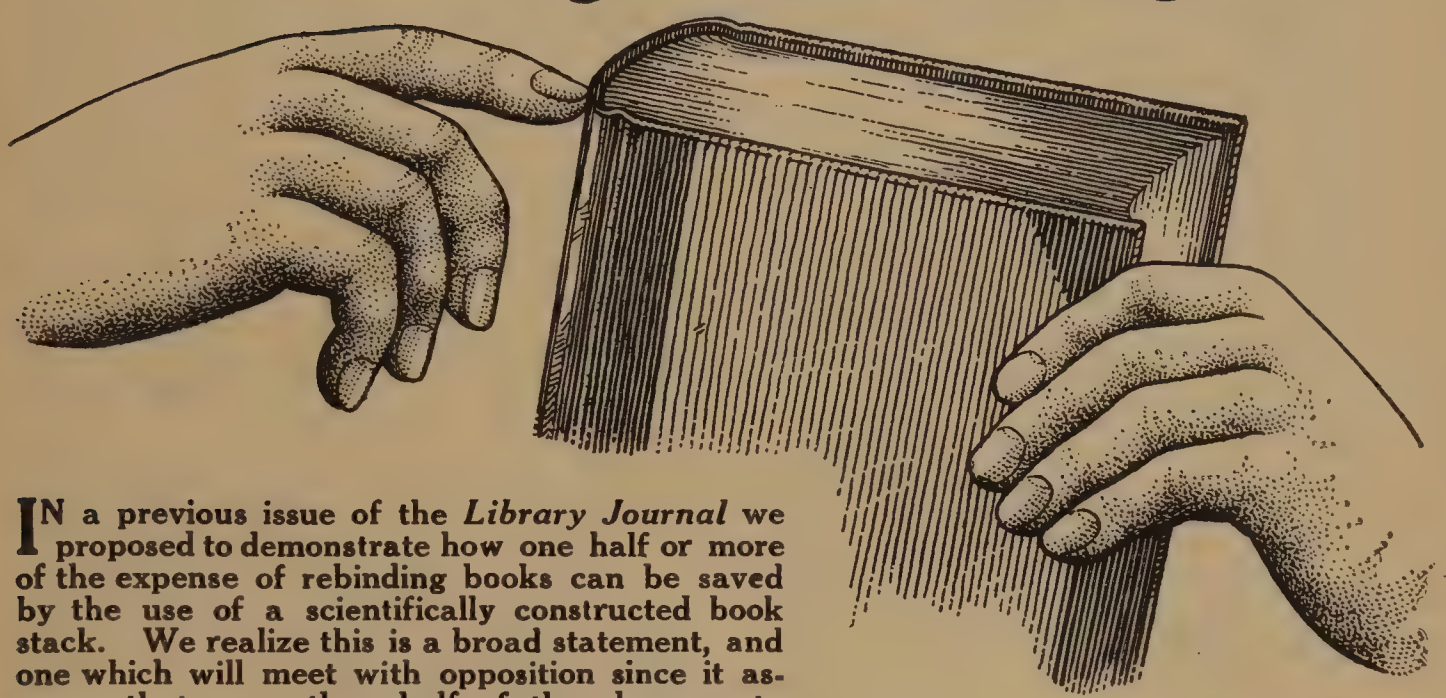

IN a previous issue of the *Library Journal* we proposed to demonstrate how one half or more of the expense of rebinding books can be saved by the use of a scientifically constructed book stack. We realize this is a broad statement, and one which will meet with opposition since it assumes that more than half of the damage to bookbindings occurs in the library itself, where books are supposed to have the best care. But every *new idea* meets with opposition. If the innovation is a needed relief, however, we believe intelligent librarians will quickly adopt it.

We suggest, therefore, that our readers give serious thought to a few points about the welfare of books.

First—Books should be kept closed while resting upon the shelves.

Second—Books should be so shelved as to permit of their being placed on or removed from the shelves easily and without injury to the binding.

Third—While the books are resting upon the shelves the binding welts should not come into injurious contact with each other or with the shelf-supporting uprights.

Our next advertisement will give further details. In the meantime we shall be glad to give full information to those who are considering the purchase of book stacks and to make demonstration with samples of the superiority of the *Hine* book stack as a book protector.

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CURRENT LITERATURE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

A brief vocabulary in four languages of musical terms used in cataloging is contributed to the May-August number of the *Bulletin of Bibliography* by William Stetson Merrill of the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Shantung Christian University, Tsinan, China (Augustine Library) asks, thru its librarian, D. D. Parker, for any book or pamphlet having medical books with D. C. numbers. One-third of the medical library consists of English books and such a catalog would be of great help.

Edith Kathleen Jones' "The Hospital Library" consisting of articles on hospital library service, organization, administration and book selection together with lists of books and periodicals suitable for hospital library work is now ready and may be obtained from the American Library Association (190 p. illus. cloth. $2.25).

Reprinted from the Ninth Report of the Federal Commission of Fine Arts is a chapter entitled, "The Plan of the National Capital," which is a handsomely illustrated, clear, concise account of the present and proposed development of the building and park system of Washington. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, at 20 cents a copy.

The 1922 issue of the Psychological Index (No. 29. 57+275 p.) is larger than ever, 4077 titles being listed. As usual it includes original publications in all languages, together with translations and new editions in English, French, German, and Italian. Titles of 1921 received too late for insertion are included in this issue. One of the significant features of this Index is the number of titles devoted to the industrial and professional publications about psychology, about 150 titles being listed under that subject.

In the *Trained Nurse and Hospital Review* for July, Minnie Genevieve Morse writes on "The Nurse and the Library." She says "One of a community's greatest assets in the promotion of its educational work is a good public library. And one of the greatest inducements for professional people to settle in a place is the fact that it has a good public library. From both of these points of view the public library should mean a great deal to the trained nurse. But does it? How many nurses in a community, graduate and undergraduate, get what they might from their library privileges?"

The A. L. A. Catalog 1912-1921 compiled by the A. L. A. *Booklist* staff and co-operating libraries under the editorship of Mae Massee, now director of children's book publishing for Doubleday, Page and Co., is an annotated list of over four thousand titles for children and adults classified by subject and indexed under subject, author and title. Date, publisher price, subject heading, L. C. printed card number and D. C. classification number are included. Further notice of the catalog must be reserved for a later number of the LIBRARY JOURNAL. (409 p. Cloth, $4. A. L. A., 78 East Washington St., Chicago.)

"Gifts for Children's Book-Shelves," containing one hundred and ten annotated titles prepared by the A. L. A. Children's Librarians' Section, is the new official A. L. A. gift list. Librarians are continually being asked to recommend books for boys' and girls' own book-shelves. This list, which meets the interests of children and young people of different ages and tastes, and includes the books a librarian would most wish to recommend, is especially planned for use during Children's book week and the Christmas season. Price: 100 copies, $2; 250, $4; 500, $7; 1,000, $12; 5,000, $55. Postage extra. Your own imprint on 100 or more, $1 extra, if order is received before reprinting, September 20 and October 15. Copies with A. L. A. imprint are ready now.

LILLIAN H. SMITH, *Chairman, Children's Librarians' Section.*

The third part of William Swan Sonnenschein's "The Best Books" (third edition) long delayed by misfortunes of the war and post-war periods covers Class F—History and Historical Biography—and Class G—Archaeology and Historical Collaterals. The compiler promises that the publication of the fourth (concluding) part will follow very quickly and will contain an index of the whole. "An effort to bring the contents of Parts I-II down to date has been made by supplying in the most convenient sections of Parts III-IV, all the later publications that would have been included in their proper places had the book appeared as a single issue." The inconvenience of this will be discounted to a considerable extent in the Table of Contents which with other preliminary matter will appear with Part IV. The whole work is planned as "a reader's guide to the best available books (about 100,000) in every department of science, art and literature," with the dates of first and last editions, and the price, size, and publisher's name (both English and American) of each book. (Putnam, 1923. $10.)

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The records of the meetings of the Oxford Bibliographical Society from the time of its foundation at New Year, 1922, now appear as vol. 1, pt. 1 of the Society's *Proceedings and Papers*, printed by the Oxford University Press. The present part consists of two formal papers: The Bibliographical Study of Shakespeare, by Percy Simpson and Standard Descriptions of Printed Books by Falconer Madan, E. Gordon Duff and the secretary, S. Gibson.

Activities projected by the Society include discussions of college libraries, their treasures, catalogs and schemes of co-operation; bibliographical work on manuscripts and printed books ready to be undertaken in Oxford; rules to help toward a standard description of books; the method of masters of bibliography like Henry Bradshaw and Ludwig Traube, and of eminent librarians; exhibitions of notable books and manuscripts; and informal lectures on editing, illustration, practical printing, the bibliography of a person or subject and many other matters relating to both modern and classical bibliography which a city with some thirty libraries containing three million printed books and about 60,000 manuscripts makes possible.

A reference service likely to be useful to American librarians has recently been started in Paris by the Bibliographical Department of *La Revue des Jeunes*, 3 rue des Luynes, Paris VII. The research work of this department is directed and, for the most part, is actually done by M. l'Abbé Destrez, the editor, who was a student at the library school which was conducted by the American Committee for work in Devastated France at the American Library in Paris last summer. While the work of *La Revue* is primarily in the field of Catholic religion and theology, the Bibliographical Department attempts to deal impartially with every subject upon which information is sought. The requests which come in daily to this Department remind one, in number and in variety, of the work of a large American reference library. One day's questions ranged in subject from theological matter to a request for a bibliography of French folk songs and even to a demand for a book called "Trois Hommes dans un Bateau." These questions are answered as far as possible from books in the Department, but the large collections of the Bibliothèque Nationale and of other French libraries are consulted when necessary. In addition to the Revue and the Bibliographical Department, *La Revue des Jeunes* maintains a publishing house and a book store which will supply French books from all publishers, including novels and nonfiction on every subject.

Decimal Classification

A list of corrections and additions appearing in the tenth and eleventh editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification supplementing lists previously issued for editions 2-9, will soon be distributed free to recorded owners of editions 7-10. Owners of editions 1-6, 1876-1899, and of no later edition, are disregarded as probably no longer interested, but to any who wish it the list will be sent on application.

Information regarding future corrections and additions will be kept to date thru the Library Journal, which will as needed publish notes to be entered by owners in their respective copies. That this service may be made as complete as possible, D. C. users are urged to send the D. C. editor, Dorcas Fellows, State Library, Albany, notes of mistakes or omissions in either tables or index, also of new topics and of subjects needing expansion. These will be given attention as promptly as possible, but expansions not only often involve extensive correspondence with specialists, but also comparison and harmonizing of different schemes and opinions, so that considerable time is usually needed to reach satisfactory results. It will greatly facilitate the work if all who have made individual expansions for any subject will file copies with the editor. As far as practicable precedence will be given to subjects for which there is most general demand or apparently greatest need. Among the first subjects listed for consideration is Psychology.

Needed separates will soon be published; the earliest of which will probably be for Office Economy and Industrial Management. Others to appear as soon as rounded out are Medicine and Agriculture.

D. C. Annotations

Tables:

136.775 Girl problem
149.6, reference to Schopenhauer as 193.9 is misprint for 193.7
621.38413 Instruments and apparatus
131 Sending apparatus
135 Aerials, etc.
136 Receiving apparatus
633.564 titiaceus, misprint for tiliaceus
.64 Acer saccharum Marsh is also cald Acer saccharinum Wangenh
.72 Canellia, misprint for Camellia
.74 Thesbroma, misprint for Theobroma

Index:

Fur, manufacture of clothing 687
Furriery manufacture of clothing 687
Iron pipes, waterworks 628.16 misprint for 628.15
Novilatlin, misprint for Novilatiin
Quakers. lives 922.88 misprint for 922.86
Rhubarb (and Rubarb) 635.49 misprint for 635.48
Skepticism, metafisics 121
Vitamins, nutrition 612.39
Vivisection, laws, public health 614.23 misprint for 614.22

LIBRARY EXCHANGE

The Indianapolis Public Library will give to any library willing to pay transportation charges the following bound newspapers:

Baltimore American, Jan. 1876-Jan. 1878. 4v.
Boston Advertiser, July 1876-Jan. 1878. 4v.
Boston Gazette, Jan. 1876-June 1878. 2v.
Boston Post, Jan. 1876-June 1878. 5v.
Charleston News and Courier, Feb. 1876-June 1877. 3v.
Chicago Times, Jan. 1877-Sept. 1877. 2v.
Cincinnati Enquirer, Apr. 1877-June 1877. 2v.
Detroit Free Press, July 1877-Jan. 1878. 1v.
Light of Truth, July 1892-July 1896. 4v.
Louisville Courier Journal, Jan. 1876-Jan. 1878. 4v.
McKeesport Standard, Nov. 1856-May 1860. 2v.
Missouri Republican, Jan. 1877-Jan. 1878. 3v.
Montreal Gazette, July 1876-June 1878. 4v.
New York Journal of Commerce, Jan. 1876-Apr. 1878. 4v.
New York Observer, Oct. 1848-July 1856. 5v.
New York Evening Post, Nov. 1874-Feb. 1877. 2v.
New York World, Jan. 1876-Apr. 1878. 9v.
Pittsburgh Post, Jan. 1876-June 1878. 5v.
St. Louis Globe Democrat, Jan. 1876-Feb. 1878. 9v.
St. Louis Republican, Jan. 1876-Dec. 1876. 4v.
Springfield Republican, Feb. 1876-Jan. 1878. 5v.
Toledo Commercial, Jan. 1876-Jan. 1878. 4v.

Miss Jane Morey, manager of the Traveling Libraries of the Missouri Library Commission, will be glad to give to any public or school library the periodicals listed below. The recipient would be expected to pay cost of transportation from Sedalia, Mo. Unless otherwise indicated the volumes are bound.

Harper's Weekly, Feb.-Aug., 1861; Sept.-March 8, 1862; April-Dec., 1864; Feb.-Aug. 12, 1865; Aug. 26, 1865-March 17, 1866; June-Dec. 28, 1872; Jan.-Dec., 1874; Jan.-March, 1875; Jan.-Dec., 1876; July-Dec., 1880 bound with Jan.-April, 1881.
Congressional Globe, 39th Congress, 2nd session, parts 1-3.
Harper's Monthly, Vols. 36; 38; 39-57; 60-69.
Scribner's Monthly, Vols. 1-4; 12-16; 17-22.
Century, Vols. 5-7; 23-26.
Galaxy, Vols. 5-24.
Appleton, Vols. 1-5.
Atlantic Monthly, Vols. 19-38; 41-46.
Packard's Monthly, 1869.
St. Nicholas, unbound, 1894 (lacks April); 1881, July only; 1885-May-Dec.; 1886-1889 complete; 1890, Feb. thru Oct. (Oct. lacks frontispiece); 1893, Jan.-Sept.

FOR SALE

General index to the Library Journal, vols. 1-22, (September, 1876-December, 1897) price $1. The Library Journal, 62 West 45th St., New York.

The Kalamazoo Public Library will be glad to hear from someone who may have need of the following books:

Alabama claims—Court of Commissioners
  Petitions V. 1-12
  General docket V. 1-2
  Opinions V. 1-2
  List of claims V. 1-3
  Report of clerk 1 V.
Geneva Arbitration. Papers relating to the treaty of Washington. 6 Volumes.
Paris exposition. Report of the Commissioner General for the U. S. 1900. 6 Volumes
Social economist. V. 1-7. March 1891-December 1894.
Illustrated London News
  Volume 14-38. 1895-1906
  Volume 40-53 1907-1913

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C. California State Library School.
C.P. Carnegie Library School of Pittsburgh.
D. Drexel Library School.
Ill. University of Illinois Library School.
L.A. Library School of the Los Angeles Public Library.
N.Y.P.L. Library School of the New York Public Library.
N.Y.S. New York State Library School.
P. Pratt Institute School of Library Science.
R. Riverside Library School.
S. Simmons College School of Library Science.
S.L. St. Louis Library School.
Syr. Syracuse University Library School.
U.C. University of California Course in Library Science.
W.R. Western Reserve Library School.
Wis. Wisconsin University Library School.
Wash. University of Washington Library School.

ALVERSON, Lucy B., 1923 W. R., is now librarian, Alma (Mich.) Public Library.

BOERLAGE, Louise M., 1916-18 N. Y. P. L., has left her work as head of the Circulation Department of the Hibbing (Minn.) Public Library to take a part-time cataloging position in the University of Minnesota Library, and to take several courses in the University.

BRADLEY, Florence, extension librarian of the National Health Library, New York, succeeds Frances S. Cox, resigned, as librarian of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Library, New York.

CRAIN, Ena, 921 S., appointed reference librarian of the Colorado Agricultural College, at Fort Collins.

DODD, Mary Lillian, formerly librarian of the Middletown (N. J.) Township and Navesink Association Library, appointed librarian of the Millbrook (N. Y.) Free Library.

ENGLISH, Gladys, 1917 W. R., librarian, Tuolumne County Free Library, California.

GALLOWAY, Blanche, head of the School Department of the Kern County (Calif.) Free Library, appointed librarian of the Madera County Free Library.

HARRIS, Jessie A., 922 S., has resigned the librarianship of the Whittier (Calif.) Public Library, to become librarian of the Whittier High School.

KNEIL, Margaret, 1914 S., has been appointed librarian of the Weaver High School, Hartford, Conn.

LEATHERMAN, Marian, 1916 Ill., has been appointed librarian of Drake University, Des Moines.

LE FEVRE, Helena S., librarian of the Spies Public Library, Menominee, Mich., appointed librarian of the Middletown (N. Y.) Public Library.

MCLELLAN, Elleine (Mrs. Vergil S.), 1923 Ill., appointed librarian of the new State Library Bureau and will be in charge of the traveling library service for the state.

MCNAMARA, Katherine, 1918 S., has resigned the librarianship of Bradford Academy, Bradford, Mass.

"Marjorie Clark" [being Marjorie Quigley and Mary Clark of the Endicott (N. Y.) Free Library] is the author of "The Cook's Surprise" to be published September 28 by Doubleday, Page & Co., as one of the first selections made by Mae Massee as director of children's publications. Another book by the same authors "The Poppy Seed Cakes" is announced for publication next year.

PETERS, Aimee M., 1913 Syr., recently head cataloger of the Public Library, Tulsa, Okla., has been appointed cataloger of the New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

SANTES, Marie M., 1916-18 N. Y. S., has left the University of Minnesota Library after five years service as cataloger, to become a cataloger of the Herbert Hoover War Collection of Stanford University. She is succeeded by Jennie A. Hulce (B. L. S., Ill.), who has had wide experience in the John Crerar Library and elsewhere.

SETTLE, Mrs. George T., of Louisville, who is president of the League of Women Voters and prominent in many other national and local organizations was recently admitted to the bar and will practice in Louisville.

SPENCER, Mary C., for over thirty years Michigan's state librarian, died in Lansing, August 21, aged 80. Mrs. Spencer entered the state service in 1882 as clerk in the office of the secretary of state, and before to her appointment as librarian in 1891 she had spent seven years as assistant librarian. She found the State Library a collection of some 60,000 volumes behind closed doors and left it a working collection of about 300,000 volumes available to users thruout the state by means of the traveling libraries system. Her influence was strong in gaining for Lansing a Carnegie library and her loss will be felt outside of overnmental circles as in them. She was one of the original members of the National Association of State Librarians founded in Washington nearly twenty-five years ago.

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RECENT BIBLIOGRAPHIES

GENERAL

Bowker, R. R., Co. The American educational list; 1923. New York. v. p. O. $1. (*Publishers' Weekly*, v. 104, no. 3, July, 21, 1923).

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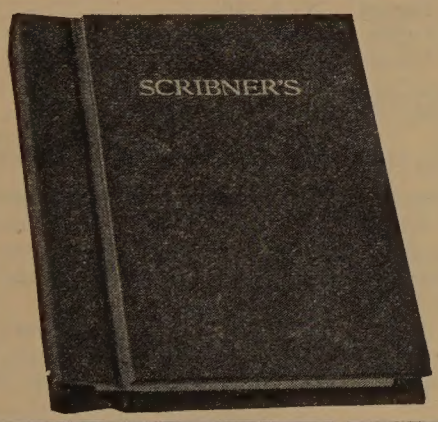

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In L. J. for Sept. 1, p. 709, line 2, the words "and the Rockefeller Foundation" should be added after "corporation."

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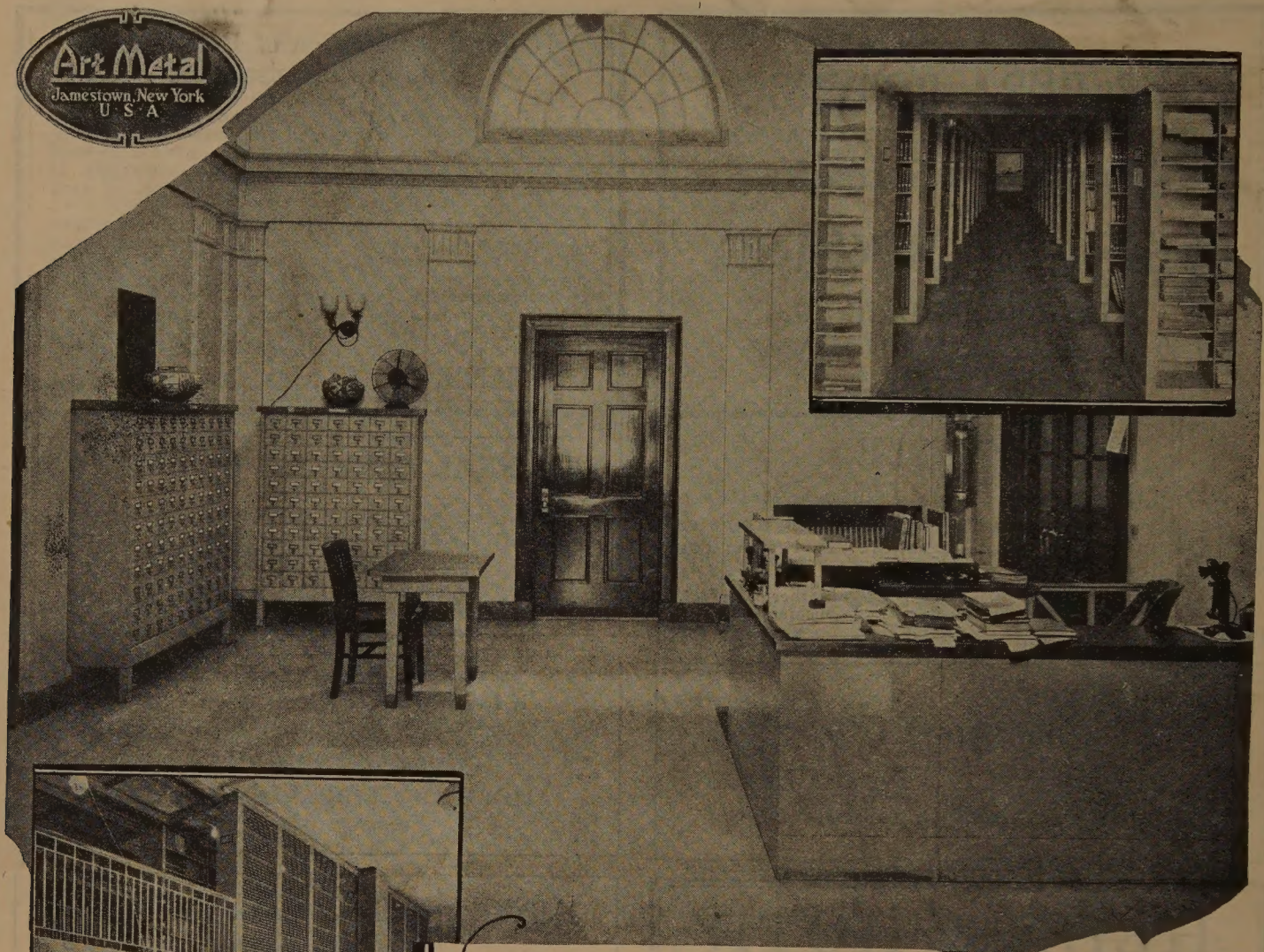

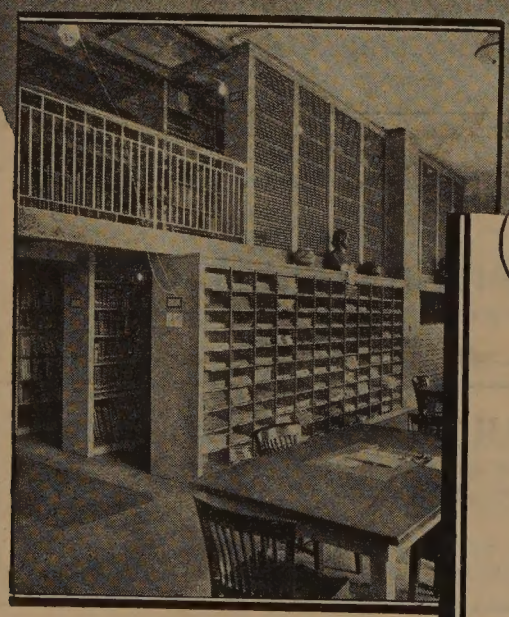

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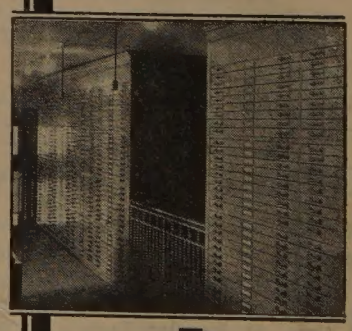

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